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(A/11770)

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Dear Sirs,

With reference to your application numbered as above, the Examiner (Mr. D. Eve - 01-248 5070, Ext. 21) reports that the references in claim 6 and elsewhere to "closed" loops are not clear. Although material is recirculated, both water and tobacco solids are continuously removed (the former by evaporation and the latter in the product) and replaced. Moreover the latter removal at least seems to be not only unavoidable, but the object of the exercise. In this case the word "closed" is inconsistent with the context, and should be struck out. Since claim 6 will then add nothing to the claims to which it is appendant, it should be struck out. Consequential amendments will then be needed elsewhere.

2. The abbreviation "i.e." is not consistent with its context on page 6 line 1, and should be amended.
3. The reference numerals 10', 220 and 224 now used in the description should be inserted into the drawing. So also should reference numeral 131 as applied to the control in the vessel 66.
4. The reference numeral 33, used on page 6 line 15 cannot be found in the drawing. If, as appears, there is an error in the description, it should be corrected.
5. The description at page 6 line 24 does not follow on. Some redrafting seems to be needed as a consequence of the removal of the matter formerly included here.
6. The sentence on page 10 lines 4-8 is still not clear, and should be further amended.
7. The drawing is not clear in respect of the matter referred to on page 11 lines 8-12. If, as appears, there is an error in the drawing at this point, it should be corrected.
8. The reference to the headbox on page 17 line 19 should be restyled, since the wire is part of the Fourdrinier unit.
9. The other matters indicated in pencil should also receive attention. This includes errors introduced in the retyping, and manuscript amendments that are not clearly legible.
10. The explanation of "Filling Power Index" now inserted on page 19 seems prima facie to introduce new subject-matter. If postdating and all its consequences, including loss of the priority claimed under the Convention, are to be avoided, there seem to be two courses open to you. Firstly, if it be not necessary to a proper understanding

/of

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Sheet 2

of the invention, you could strike out all reference to this index and its explanation. Alternatively, if you can establish, by reference to the literature or otherwise, that this term would be understood by the man skilled in the art, in this country and on or before the date of filing of the present application, as having the meaning now indicated, the explanation could apparently be allowed without loss of date.

Yours faithfully,

Enclosures:  
Complete Specification  
Original Drawings (2 sheets)

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